

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF  
HARVARD COLLEGE,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, et al.,

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-cv-11048-ADB

**DEFENDANT’S RULE 56.1 RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF’S STATEMENT OF  
UNDISPUTED MATERIAL FACTS IN SUPPORT OF ITS  
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND DEFENDANT’S RULE 56.1  
STATEMENT OF UNDISPUTED MATERIAL FACTS IN SUPPORT OF ITS MOTION  
FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Pursuant to Rule 56.1 of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendants submit the following responses to Plaintiff’s (“Harvard’s”) statement of facts of which there is no genuine issue to be tried:

**A. Harvard’s Federally Funded Research**

1. Harvard University is a non-profit institution and is the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States and one of the world’s leading research universities. Declaration of John Shaw dated June 2, 2025 (“Shaw Decl.”) ¶ 3.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

2. Harvard’s researchers have pioneered life-altering advancements in improving cancer prevention and treatment, understanding neurodegenerative disorders, creating a new class of antibiotics to treat infections, and studying how spaceflight affects blood cell formation in astronauts. Shaw Decl. ¶¶ 7, 11.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

3. Harvard’s research programs—funded in part by the Government—serve as training grounds for the next generation of scientific, technological, medical, and public health leaders, with grants supporting the work of more than a thousand graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Shaw Decl. ¶¶ 8-9, 24, 27.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

4. As of April 14, 2025, Harvard was a recipient of active grants from the following agencies: the National Endowment of the Arts (“NEA”); the National Institutes of Health (“NIH”); other subagencies of the Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”); the National Science Foundation (“NSF”); the Office of Personnel Management (“OPM”); the Department of Justice (“DOJ”); the Department of Agriculture (“USDA”); the Department of Education (“Department of Education”); the Department of Energy (“Energy”); the Department of Defense (“DoD”); the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (“NASA”); and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”). Shaw Decl. ¶ 6.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

**B. Harvard’s Response to Antisemitism on Its Campus**

5. Harvard has made policy and other changes aimed at ensuring its campus is safe, fair, and welcoming to Jewish and Israeli students, including that it has:

- a. Disciplined students and faculty who violate applicable policies, Declaration of Peggy Newell dated June 2, 2025 (“Newell Decl.”) ¶ 18;

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

- b. Enhanced programs and policies designed to address bias and promote ideological diversity and civil discourse, Newell Decl. ¶¶ 11, 13-15, 26-27;

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

- c. Adopted new accountability procedures and clarified policies, including specifying that protests are not permitted in classrooms, libraries, dormitories, dining halls, Harvard offices, and other places where they would interfere with normal activities, and they expressly prohibit unauthorized encampments, exhibits, and displays on campus, Newell Decl. ¶¶ 3, 5, 10-11, 13, 16;

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

- d. Supplemented existing safety and security measures, Newell Decl. ¶ 17; and

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

- e. Refined its procedures and protections for reporting misconduct, Newell Decl. ¶ 16.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

- 6. All of these changes were publicly announced and widely reported. Newell Decl. ¶¶ 4, 6, 8, 12, 19, 21, 25.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

- 7. Harvard has also made several leadership and personnel changes.<sup>1</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Alan Blinder, *Alan Garber Will Stay On as Harvard's President*, N.Y. Times (Aug. 2, 2024), <https://perma.cc/6HTP-55RL>; John Manning Named Next Provost, Harvard Gazette (Aug. 15, 2024), <https://perma.cc/UAP8-34CP>; Max J. Krupnick, *David Deming Announced as Harvard College Dean*, Harvard Magazine (May 15, 2025), <https://perma.cc/EP98-23MK>; *New Member of Harvard Corporation*, Harvard Univ.: Off. of the President (May 29, 2025), <https://perma.cc/22HB-YZWS>.

8. Concurrently with these changes, President Garber charged a Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias (“Harvard Task Force”) in January 2024 with “identifying the root causes of and contributing factors to bias-based behaviors on campus” and “recommending approaches to combat bias and to mitigate its impact on campus.” Newell Decl. ¶ 26.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

9. On April 29, 2025, the Harvard Task Force released a final 311-page report that, while noting “numerous examples of students, staff, and faculty dedicated to renewing and strengthening the Harvard community,” acknowledged the “alienating and hostile atmosphere” experienced by many Jewish and Israeli students at Harvard, as well as “instances where administrators and faculty at certain Harvard Schools seemingly fell short in their responsibility to uphold principles of open inquiry, civility, and respectful disagreement within specific courses, programs, and events.” Newell Decl. ¶ 26.<sup>2</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

10. To address its troubling findings, the Harvard Task Force recommended comprehensive changes to “campus culture and student experience” and “governance” at Harvard. The report called for changes in nine specific areas related to “campus culture and student experience”: (1) admissions, (2) early student experiences, (3) academics, (4) academic offerings, (5) “co-curricular activities and residential life,” (6) “building a pluralistic community,”

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<sup>2</sup> See also Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias, Harvard Univ., *Final Report* 26-28, 191 (Apr. 29, 2025), <https://perma.cc/2QS7-4YE6> [hereinafter *Final Report*].

(7) religious life, (8) administrative infrastructure, and (9) “protests, complaints, and discipline.”

Newell Decl. ¶ 27.<sup>3</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

11. The report recommended that Harvard:

- a. Create a dedicated leadership position “specifically tasked with addressing antisemitism and anti-Israel bias”;<sup>4</sup>
- b. Provide students with “substantially more opportunities to learn about antisemitism, Jewish history and culture, the history and politics of Israel, Zionism, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” and encourage classes to be co-taught where possible to help students ground their views “in established facts, rigorous scholarship, and adequately considered perspectives”;<sup>5</sup>
- c. Develop a channel for informal grievances and anonymous complaints;<sup>6</sup>
- d. Ensure “greater consistency in disciplinary procedures” across Harvard’s Schools;<sup>7</sup> and
- e. Provide more oversight by tenured faculty over “educational programs and instructor training.”<sup>8</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

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<sup>3</sup> See also *Final Report* 173-90, *supra* n.2.

<sup>4</sup> *Final Report* 184, *supra* n.2.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 178-79.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 188.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 29.

12. The Harvard Task Force made clear that “the resolutions and the reforms” must come from Harvard. If “external parties . . . seek to compel adoption of some of [the] proposed reforms,” the report observed, it “will make it more difficult for Harvard to fix itself.” Newell Decl. ¶ 28.<sup>9</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

13. After the report’s release, President Garber responded on behalf of the University that “Harvard cannot—and will not—abide bigotry” and is committed to “address[ing] with determination at every level of the University” the challenges identified in the report and to “act[ing] decisively” to do so. Newell Decl. ¶ 26 (citation omitted).

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

14. To that end, Harvard already has taken steps to centralize and strengthen its disciplinary procedures, including by empowering the President to call on a faculty panel of the University Committee on Rights and Responsibilities (UCRR) to investigate, find facts, and impose discipline in cases involving students from multiple Schools and alleged violations of University policies. Newell Decl. ¶ 16.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

15. Harvard’s Academic Council (the president, provost, deans, and other senior leaders) is “further developing and implementing new recommendations” in order to “nurtur[e] a widespread sense of belonging and promot[e] respectful dialogue; revis[e] and implement[] policies, procedures, and training; and strengthen[] academic and residential life.” Newell Decl. ¶ 29 (citation omitted).

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

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<sup>9</sup> See also *Final Report 4*, *supra* n.2.

16. Harvard’s deans are reviewing recommendations concerning admissions, appointments, curriculum, and orientation and training programs, and they have been directed to submit “action plans” by June 2025 for each of Harvard’s schools. Newell Decl. ¶ 29 (citation omitted).

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

17. The Office of the President and Provost “will oversee the implementation of recommendations,” including “the establishment of a University-wide initiative to promote and support viewpoint diversity.” Newell Decl. ¶ 29 (citation omitted).

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

18. The administrative record does not include Harvard’s statements and announcements regarding measures it has taken and will take to combat antisemitism, and contains no evidence predating the Government’s actions to cut off funding in which the defendant agencies provided Harvard with detailed allegations of antisemitism at Harvard, identified what actions or inactions by Harvard amounted to Title VI violations by Harvard, or identified which programs at Harvard were affected by such violations. *See generally* Administrative Record.

**Response: Defendants dispute that the administrative record does not include Harvard’s statements and announcements (see, e.g., HSHarv\_00000474, ENERGY AR3944, EDHarvAR\_0000011).**

**C. Defendants’ Threats to Harvard’s Federal Research Funding**

19. On February 3, 2025, the DOJ announced the formation of a multi-agency Task Force to Combat Antisemitism (“Federal Task Force”) including representatives from the Department of

Education, HHS, and other agencies, led by Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Leo Terrell.<sup>10</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

20. Prior to Terrell’s appointment as Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and head of the Federal Task Force, on October 20, 2024, Terrell stated that “Harvard will lose much more effective January 2025.”<sup>11</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

21. On March 31, 2025, Harvard received a letter from the GSA (the “March 31 Letter”) notifying Harvard of a “review” of more than \$8.7 billion in federal funding to Harvard. GSAHarv\_00000003-04.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

22. The March 31 Letter linked the review of funding to Defendants’ allegations about antisemitism on Harvard’s campus. GSAHarv\_00000003-4; *see* Declaration of Steven P. Lehotsky dated June 2, 2025 (“Lehotsky Decl.”), Ex. 1.

**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff’s claims as they are a characterization of the March 31 Letter, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

23. The Federal Task Force followed up on April 3, 2025, with an “official notice” of certain “pre-conditions” with which Harvard was required to comply to continue receiving federal funding (the “April 3 Letter”). HHSHarv\_000000061-63.

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<sup>10</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Just., *Justice Department Announces Formation of Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism* (Feb. 3, 2025), <https://perma.cc/9JBC-UZ2D>.

<sup>11</sup> @TheLeoTerrell, X.com (Oct. 20, 2024, 3:33 PM ET), <https://perma.cc/C9EZ-9Q2J>.



**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff's claims as they are a characterization of the April 3 Letter, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

24. The April 3 Letter described “several broad, non-exhaustive areas of reform that the government views as necessary for Harvard to implement to remain a responsible recipient of federal taxpayer dollars,” including governance reforms “to foster clear lines of authority”; oversight for “biased programs that fuel antisemitism” and to “improve viewpoint diversity”; and efforts “to shutter” diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) programs that “teach” certain things. HHSHarv\_00000062-63.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

25. The April 3 Letter further stated that Harvard had “failed to protect American students and faculty from antisemitic violence and harassment in addition to other alleged violations of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964” and called for “immediate cooperation in implementing these critical reforms” as a prerequisite for “Harvard University’s continued financial relationship with the United States government.” HHSHarv\_00000062-63.

**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff's claims as they are a characterization of the April 3 Letter, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

26. Nowhere in the April 3 Letter did the Government acknowledge the reforms and commitments Harvard had already made, including commissioning the Harvard Task Force, which issued its report and recommendations shortly thereafter. HHSHarv\_00000062-63.

**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff's claims as they are a characterization of the April 3 Letter, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

27. Nowhere in the April 3 Letter did the Government identify any specific instances of antisemitism on Harvard's campus. HHSHarv\_00000062-63.

**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff's claims as they are a characterization of the April 3 Letter, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

28. Nowhere in the April 3 Letter did the Government specify how Harvard failed to respond to any such acts of antisemitism in a way that violated Title VI. HHSHarv\_00000062-63.

**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff's claims as they are a characterization of the April 3 Letter, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

29. On the same day, the Government sent Harvard's counsel an email to schedule a meeting, along with an attached document that contained a "[m]enu" of further demands. HHSHarv\_00005230-35.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

30. Many of those demands mirrored those contained in the April 3 Letter, such as a "choice" between "install[ing] new leadership in problematic depts" and "receivership." HHSHarv\_00005234.

**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff's claims as they are a characterization of the April 3 Letter, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

31. The document also stated that the Government sought a “[s]enior secured 1st Lien on all Harvard assets which will serve as collateral to pay back government from Harvard in event of non-compliance in the future.” HSHHarv\_00005235.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

32. On April 11, 2025, HHS, GSA, and the Department of Education sent another letter to President Garber (the “April 11 Letter”). HSHHarv\_00000098-102.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

33. The April 11 Letter, which stated that it “incorporates and supersedes” the April 3 Letter, asserted that Harvard “failed to live up to . . . [the] civil rights conditions that justify federal investment” and laid out a list of conditions Harvard must satisfy to “maintain Harvard’s financial relationship with the federal government.” HSHHarv\_00000098.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

34. Specifically, among other demands, the Government’s conditions included: “commission[ing] an external party . . . to audit the student body, faculty, staff, and leadership for viewpoint diversity, such that each department, field, or teaching unit must be individually viewpoint diverse”; “abolish[ing] all criteria, preferences, and practices, whether mandatory or optional, throughout its admissions and hiring practices, that function as ideological litmus tests”; for departments, fields, and teaching units found to “lack viewpoint diversity,” “hiring a critical mass of new faculty” and “admitting a critical mass of students” to provide the Government’s preferred balance of viewpoint diversity; “reform[ing] and restructuring” governance; “reducing the power held by students and untenured faculty,” as well as “the power held by faculty . . . more committed to activism than scholarship”; and “shutter[ing]” all DEI programs “through structural and personnel changes.” HSHHarv\_00000098-102.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

35. The final arbiter of compliance with these conditions would be the federal government, which would retain the right to audit Harvard (or review final audit reports by third parties) until at least the end of 2028. HSHHarv\_00000098-102.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

36. Like the April 3 Letter, the April 11 Letter stated that the Government expected “immediate cooperation in implementing these critical reforms” if the University wanted to “maintain Harvard’s financial relationship with the federal government.” HSHHarv\_00000098-102.

**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff’s claims as they are a characterization of the April 11 Letter, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

37. Nowhere in the April 11 Letter did the Government acknowledge the reforms and commitments Harvard had already made, including commissioning the Harvard Task Force, which already had issued its preliminary recommendations. HSHHarv\_00000098-102.

**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff’s claims as they are a characterization of the April 11 Letter, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

38. Nowhere in the April 11 Letter did the Government identify any specific instances of antisemitism on Harvard’s campus. HSHHarv\_00000098-102.

**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff’s claims as they are a characterization of the April 11 Letter, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

39. Nowhere in the April 11 Letter did the Government specify how Harvard failed to respond to any such acts of antisemitism in a way that violated Title VI. HSHHarv\_00000098-102.

**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff's claims as they are a characterization of the April 11 Letter, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

40. Also on April 11, the DOJ's Civil Rights Division sent Harvard a letter announcing that it was "commencing a compliance review investigation of Harvard University [specifically Harvard Medical School] pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*," and noting that "[i]f we conclude that Harvard University is violating Title VI, we will inform you and work with you to secure compliance by informal voluntary means. 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.107 & 42.108." Lehotsky Decl., Ex. 2.

**Response: Defendants dispute as irrelevant to the current proceeding.**

41. On April 14, 2025, Harvard sent a letter responding to the April 3 and April 11 Letters, stating that, because the April 11 Letter "presents demands that, in contravention of the First Amendment, invade university freedoms long recognized by the Supreme Court," "Harvard is not prepared to agree to demands that go beyond the lawful authority of this or any administration" and "will not accept the government's terms" because "[n]either Harvard nor any other private university can allow itself to be taken over by the federal government." HSHHarv\_00000104-05.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

42. On April 14, 2025, President Garber explained in a public message to the Harvard community that "[a]lthough some of the demands outlined by the government are aimed at combating antisemitism, the majority represent direct governmental regulation of the 'intellectual

conditions’ at Harvard.” He explained that Harvard “do[es] not take lightly [its] moral duty to fight antisemitism,” noting the steps Harvard had already taken and would continue to take, and stated that “[n]o government—regardless of which party is in power—should dictate what private universities can teach, whom they can admit and hire, and which areas of study and inquiry they can pursue.”<sup>12</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

**D. Defendants’ Freeze Orders and Other Retaliation Against Harvard**

43. Later on April 14, 2025, the Federal Task Force “announc[ed] a freeze on \$2.2 billion in multi-year grants and \$60M in multi-year contract value to Harvard University” (the “April 14 Freeze Order”). GSAHarv\_00000012-13.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

44. The April 14 Freeze Order cited “[t]he harassment of Jewish students” and “the troubling entitlement mindset that is endemic in our nation’s most prestigious universities and colleges—that federal investment does not come with the responsibility to uphold civil rights laws.” GSAHarv\_00000012-13.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

45. Nowhere in the April 14 Freeze Order did the Government acknowledge Harvard’s communications from earlier that day, outlining the measures Harvard had taken and had committed to take. GSAHarv\_00000012-13.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

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<sup>12</sup> Alan M. Garber, *The Promise of American Higher Education*, Harvard Univ.: Off. of the President (Apr. 14, 2025), <https://perma.cc/L4G7-J8UB>.

46. Nowhere in the April 14 Freeze Order did the Government identify any specific instances of antisemitism on Harvard's campus. GSAHarv\_00000012-13.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

47. Nowhere in the April 14 Freeze Order did the Government specify how Harvard failed to respond to any such acts of antisemitism in a way that violated Title VI. GSAHarv\_00000012-13.

**Response: Defendants dispute the characterization that the April 14 Freeze Order fails to “specify how Harvard failed to respond to any such acts of antisemitism” and maintain that “disruption of learning” and “harassment of Jewish students” constituted such failures. See GSAHarv\_00000013.**

48. The Government issued the April 14 Freeze Order without holding any hearing or submitting any report to Congress. *See generally* Administrative Record.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

49. On April 15, 2025, the President opined on social media that “Perhaps Harvard should lose its Tax Exempt Status and be Taxed as a Political Entity if it keeps pushing political, ideological, and terrorist inspired/supporting ‘Sickness?’ Remember, Tax Exempt Status is totally contingent on acting in the PUBLIC INTEREST!”<sup>13</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

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<sup>13</sup> @realDonaldTrump, Truth Social (Apr. 15, 2025, 10:09 AM ET), <https://tinyurl.com/4u7dmjdc>.

50. On April 16, 2025, the President further criticized Harvard on social media for “hiring almost all woke, Radical Left, idiots,” and said Harvard “should no longer receive Federal Funds.”<sup>14</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

51. On April 16, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) threatened Harvard’s eligibility to enroll international students.<sup>15</sup>

**Response: Defendants dispute as irrelevant to the current proceeding.**

52. On April 17, 2025, the Department of Education sent a records request to Harvard.<sup>16</sup>

**Response: Defendants dispute as irrelevant to the current proceeding.**

53. On April 18, 2025, reports surfaced that the Director of NIH’s Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration had informed other officials at NIH that the agency had “received confirmation from HHS/IOS to hold off on making awards to schools where the funds have been frozen, i.e., Columbia, Brown, Northwestern, Cornell, Weill-Cornell, Harvard,”<sup>17</sup> and that “HHS/IOS has stated that we should not provide any communications to these schools about whether or why the funds are frozen.”<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> @realDonaldTrump, Truth Social (Apr. 16, 2025, 7:05 AM ET), <https://tinyurl.com/yww6nfw7>.

<sup>15</sup> Samuel A. Church & Cam N. Srivastava, *DHS Threatens to Revoke Harvard’s Eligibility to Host International Students Unless It Turns Over Disciplinary Records*, Harvard Crimson (Apr. 17, 2025), <https://perma.cc/775F-QA32>.

<sup>16</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Educ., *U.S. Department of Education Initiates Records Request from Harvard University After Discovering Inaccurate Foreign Financial Disclosures* (Apr. 18, 2025), <https://perma.cc/94K2-BQS7>.

<sup>17</sup> @maxdkozlov, X.com (Apr. 18, 2025, 4:24 PM ET), <https://perma.cc/A6L3-M43C>.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*



**Response: Defendants admit to the extent that the reports exist but neither admit nor deny the existence of the reported communications.**

54. On April 19, 2025, HHS sent a records request to Harvard.<sup>19</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

55. On April 24, 2025, the President again denounced the University as “a Liberal mess,” while referencing this lawsuit.<sup>20</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

56. On May 2, 2025, President Trump posted on social media: “We are going to be taking away Harvard’s Tax Exempt Status. It’s what they deserve!”<sup>21</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

57. On May 5, 2025, the Secretary of Education sent Harvard another letter (the “May 5 Freeze Order”), claiming that “[i]n every way, Harvard has failed to abide by its legal obligations,” and stating that “Harvard should no longer seek GRANTS from the federal government, since none will be provided,” that “Harvard will cease to be a publicly funded institution,” and that “today’s letter marks the end of new grants for the University.” EDHarvAR\_0000008-10.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

58. The May 5 Freeze Order expressed the Government’s objection to what it characterized as an imbalance of viewpoints in Harvard’s governance and reiterated its earlier demands from the April letters and stated that “[t]he Administration’s priorities have not changed.” EDHarvAR\_0000008-10.

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<sup>19</sup> Apr. 19, 2025 Letter from HHS’s Office for Civil Rights, <https://perma.cc/2TXK-WG6K>.

<sup>20</sup> @realDonaldTrump, Truth Social (Apr. 24, 2025, 9:33 AM ET), <https://tinyurl.com/y84mntt2>.

<sup>21</sup> @realDonaldTrump, Truth Social (May 2, 2025, 7:25 AM ET), <https://tinyurl.com/35wu7kpk>.

**Response: Not disputed. However, the facts stated herein are not material to Plaintiff's claims as they are a characterization of the May Freeze Order, which is itself a part of the Administrative Record for this case.**

59. Nowhere in the May 5 Freeze Order did the Government acknowledge the reforms and commitments Harvard had already made, including commissioning the Harvard Task Force. EDHarvAR\_0000008-10.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

60. Nowhere in the May 5 Freeze Order did the Government identify any specific instances of antisemitism on Harvard's campus. EDHarvAR\_0000008-10.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

61. Nowhere in the May 5 Freeze Order did the Government specify how Harvard failed to respond to any such acts of antisemitism in a way that violated Title VI. EDHarvAR\_0000008-10.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

62. The Government issued the May 5 Freeze Order without holding any hearing or submitting any report to Congress. *See generally* Administrative Record.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

63. On May 12, 2025, President Garber sent a letter to Linda McMahon, the Secretary of Education, in response to the May 5 Freeze Order, explaining that Harvard had implemented "meaningful reform and recommendations designed to eliminate antisemitism and other forms of hate from our campus." Lehotsky Decl., Ex. 3.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

64. On May 13, 2025, the Federal Task Force issued a press release stating that “Harvard University has repeatedly failed to confront the pervasive race discrimination and anti-Semitic harassment plaguing its campus,” and stating that “[t]he Task Force fully supports the Trump Administration’s multi-agency move to cut funding to Harvard, demonstrating the entire Administration’s commitment to eradicating discrimination on Harvard’s campus.” The Government did not engage with or acknowledge the many reforms and commitments Harvard had already made and committed to make, nor did it claim to be adhering to Title VI’s detailed procedural requirements. GSAHarv\_00000014-15.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

65. On May 19, 2025, DOJ announced that it had opened a False Claims Act investigation into Harvard.<sup>22</sup>

**Response: Defendants dispute as irrelevant to the current proceeding.**

66. On May 22, 2025, DHS revoked Harvard’s Student and Exchange Visitor Program certification. Lehotsky Decl., Ex. 4.

**Response: Defendants dispute as irrelevant to the current proceeding.**

#### **E. The Federal Government’s Purported Terminations of Grants**

67. After issuing the April 14 Freeze Order, the Government immediately began issuing stop work orders on certain grants, which require the cessation of all activities related to the projects. Shaw Declaration ¶ 10; *e.g.*, HSHHarv\_00005225-29.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

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<sup>22</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Just., *Justice Department Establishes Civil Rights Fraud Initiative* (May 19, 2025), <https://perma.cc/J4B7-UVQ4>; Michael C. Bender & Michael S. Schmidt, *Trump Administration Escalates Harvard Feud with New Justice Dept. Investigation*, N.Y. Times (May 15, 2025), <https://perma.cc/M326-4APV>.

68. On April 16, 2025, DHS terminated two grants “totaling over \$2.7 million to Harvard University, declaring it unfit to be entrusted with taxpayer dollars.”<sup>23</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

69. Even before the May 5 Freeze Order, the Federal Task Force collected from agencies the total universe of available grants. *See, e.g.*, NASA-AR03541; NASA-AR03547; NASA-AR03558-36.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

70. White House officials also engaged in a multi-agency effort to identify grants with Harvard that were eligible for termination. GSAHarv\_00000035-37; GSAHarv\_00000039; NASA-AR03692-703; GSAHarv\_00000124-34.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

71. The White House controlled how agencies would explain the terminations, including by using a common “template” letter. *See, e.g.*, NASA-AR03637-45; USDA-HARV-AR-000084; *see also* ENERGY AR3940-41; HSHarv\_00000474-77.

**Response: Defendants dispute the characterization that the White House controlled all the Defendant agencies’ terminations and that every Defendant agency terminated funding.**

72. The White House gave the agencies a deadline for sending the termination letters and directed them to terminate grants to Harvard after the “final greenlight from the White House.” USDA-HARV-AR-00001; *see also* NASA-AR03679; DODHarv\_00000001.

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<sup>23</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec., *Secretary Noem Terminates \$2.7 Million in DHS Grants; Orders Harvard to Prove Compliance with Foreign Student Requirements*, <https://perma.cc/R6SV-9ECQ>.

**Response: Defendants dispute that the White House controlled all the Defendant agencies' terminations and that every Defendant agency terminated funding.**

73. Harvard received termination letters from NIH, HHSHarv\_00000473-77; USDA, USDA-HARV-AR-00008-09; the Department of Energy, ENERGY AR3932-33; DoD, DoDHarv\_00000039-40; NSF, NSF\_Harvard000002; HUD, HUDHarvAR\_00000063-64; the Department of Education, *e.g.*, EDHarvAR\_0000011-12; the Department of Commerce, Lehotsky Decl., Ex. 5; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lehotsky Decl., Ex. 6 (collectively, the “Termination Letters”).

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

74. The terminated grants related to all manner of medical, scientific, technological, and other projects—ranging from breast cancer detection and prevention, to biological threats, to overcoming antibiotic resistance, Shaw Decl. ¶¶ 11-13, to improving the neurologic outcomes for pediatric cancer survivors to developing drugs to treat long-term radiation exposure and chemotherapy,<sup>24</sup> to studying the effects of particulate matter exposure on military veterans, HHS\_HARV\_00004700,<sup>25</sup> to creating “technologies that provide energy-relevant minerals for economic and national security.”<sup>26</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

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<sup>24</sup> Liz Mineo, *Freezing Funding Halts Medical, Engineering, and Scientific Research*, Harvard Gazette (Apr. 21, 2025), [perma.cc/4MQ6-DRXA](https://perma.cc/4MQ6-DRXA).

<sup>25</sup> See also Avani B. Rai & Saketh Sundar, *Harvard's Researchers Take Center Stage in Funding Showdown with Trump*, Harvard Crimson (Apr. 15, 2025), [perma.cc/KH7R-4GBY](https://perma.cc/KH7R-4GBY).

<sup>26</sup> *Harvard University: Developing Advanced NMR Techniques to Predict and Monitor CO2 Storage and Mineralization for Enhanced Mining Exploration and Operation*, ARPA-E, <https://perma.cc/9WG9-XT6L>.

75. The termination decisions were made outside the agencies that are charged with administering the programs and that had made the decision to provide federal funding to Harvard in the first place. HSHHarv\_00000061.

**Response: Defendants dispute the characterization of the cited record as a “termination decision” and disputes the characterization that all termination decisions were “made outside the agencies that are charged with administering the programs that had made the decision to provide funding[.]”**

76. No termination letter presented any program-specific rationale for the terminations, and no termination letter reflected that any program-specific consideration had occurred. HSHHarv\_00000473-77; USDA-HARV-AR-00008-09; ENERGY AR3932-33; DoDHarv\_00000039-40; NSF\_Harvard000002; HUDHarvAR\_00000063-64; EDHarvAR\_0000011-12; Lehotsky Decl., Exs. 5-6.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

77. Almost all of the Termination Letters relied on a purported change in program goals or agency priorities, invoking 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(a)(4), which provides that a federal agency may terminate an award “pursuant to the terms and conditions of the . . . award, including, to the extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.” HSHHarv\_00000473; ENERGY AR3932; DoDHarv\_00000039; NSF\_Harvard0000039; HUDHarvAR\_00000063-64; Lehotsky Decl., Ex. 5 at 1.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

78. All but one of the agencies’ Termination Letters stated in some manner that Harvard’s grant “awards no longer effectuate agency priorities” because of “recent events at Harvard University involving antisemitic action” and “Harvard’s ongoing inaction in the face of

repeated and severe harassment and targeting of Jewish students,” coupled with Harvard’s “refus[al] to take appropriate action . . . or implement necessary reforms.” *E.g.*, HHSHarv\_00000473-74; *see* ENERGY AR3932; DoDHarv\_00000039; NSF\_Harvard000039; Lehotsky Decl., Ex. 6 at 1; USDA-HARV-AR-00008-09; EDHarvAR\_0000011; Lehotsky Decl., Ex. 5 at 1-2.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

79. The Termination Letters that did not cite such concerns contained no explanation at all as to which agency priorities supposedly had changed or why Harvard’s grant awards purportedly no longer aligned with agency priorities. HUDHarvAR\_00000063-64.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

80. Most of the Termination Letters asserted that “no modification of the projects could align the projects with agency priorities” because Harvard had rejected the Government’s demands. *E.g.*, USDA-HARV-AR-00008; *see* HHSHarv\_00000474; ENERGY AR3932.

**Response: Defendants dispute that “most of the Termination Letters” included this language and disputes that grants were terminated “because Harvard had rejected the Government’s demands.”**

81. None of the Termination Letters identified any specific instances of antisemitism on Harvard’s campus, specified how Harvard failed to respond to any such acts of antisemitism in a way that violated Title VI, or purported to follow Title VI’s procedural requirements that govern termination of federal funding. HHSHarv\_00000473-75; USDA-HARV-AR-00008-09; ENERGY AR3932-33; DoDHarv\_00000039-40; NSF\_Harvard000002; HUDHarvAR\_00000063-64; EDHarvAR\_0000011-12; Lehotsky Decl., Exs. 5-6.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

82. Since Defendants began sending the Freeze Orders and Termination Letters, Harvard has received notices of termination for over 950 already-awarded federal research projects. Shaw Declaration ¶ 15.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

83. Harvard has continued to receive those notices, including after the filing of the Amended Complaint. Lehotsky Decl., Ex. 6.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

84. One of the grants terminated by DoD was a grant that supported the Assured Microbial Preservation in Harsh or Remote Areas (“AMPHORA”) Program, which worked to increase awareness of emerging biological threats. DoDHarv\_00000039-40; DoDHarv\_00000047.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

85. A day after sending a termination letter to Harvard on May 12, 2025, DoD leadership informed officials at the agency that the Secretary of Defense had directed the cancellation of the grants and asked them to issue notices and stop work orders to individual grant recipients. DoDHarv\_00000039-40; DoDHarv\_00000033.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

86. The director of contracting at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (“DARPA”) asked to save the grant relating to the AMPHORA program, explaining that:

Harvard is currently the top performing team on the AMPHORA program. Inadequate knowledge of the biological threat landscape poses grave and immediate harm to national security. Development of critical technologies that enables bio surveillance and biocollection in austere, field forward locations bolsters national security and warfighter safety and lethality by enabling medical countermeasure development to new and emerging threats and provides biological threat intelligence to the deployed warfighter. This technology is significantly outpacing the state-of-the art and provides a



novel leap-ahead capability to the force. Harvard's effort is at a pivotal juncture in Phase 1 as they are just starting the microfluidic experiments that will give first indications of whether the program goal is achievable. They are also a critical integrator of multiple technologies that enable this effort and could not be readily reproduced.

DoDHarv\_00000047.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

87. Nothing in the Government's administrative record indicates that the Secretary of Defense yielded to the DARPA director of contracting's request. *See generally* Administrative Record.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

88. In addition to canceling military research pivotal to national security, the Government ordered immunologists overseeing a multi-school tuberculosis consortium to immediately stop research. HSHARV\_00005181.<sup>27</sup>

**Response: Defendants dispute the characterization that the canceled military research was "pivotal to national security."**

89. The Government also told a Harvard researcher at the Wyss Institute to halt his development of an advanced chip designed to measure NASA astronauts' radiation exposure during the upcoming Artemis II mission to the Moon. HHS\_HARV\_00004937.<sup>28</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

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<sup>27</sup> See also Nina Pasquini, *Research on Hold: Funding Freeze Halts Harvard Projects Overnight*, Harvard Mag. (Apr. 18, 2025), <https://perma.cc/5K2W-D4TN>.

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

90. The Government directed another Wyss Institute scientist, a recipient of the nation's highest honor for technological achievement, to cease his research into Lou Gehrig's disease.<sup>29</sup> HHS\_HARV\_00005228.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

91. Officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs have begun the process of cutting funding for research into, among other life-saving measures, "a predictive model to help V.A. emergency room physicians decide whether suicidal veterans should be hospitalized."<sup>30</sup> See HHSHarv\_00002326.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

#### **F. The Government Continues to Threaten Harvard's Federal Funding**

92. On May 20, 2025, HHS announced it was cutting an additional \$60 million in multi-year grants to Harvard.<sup>31</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

93. On May 26, 2025, the President stated that he was considering taking away "Three Billion Dollars" from "a very antisemitic Harvard," which he would then give to "TRADE SCHOOLS."<sup>32</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

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<sup>29</sup> *Id.*; Benjamin Boettner, *David Walt Named as Laureate for National Medal of Technology and Innovation*, Wyss Inst. (Jan. 7, 2025), [perma.cc/W8ZG-SMZ8](https://perma.cc/W8ZG-SMZ8).

<sup>30</sup> Nicholas Nehamas, *Trump's Push to Defund Harvard Prompts Clash Over Veteran Suicide Research*, N.Y. Times (May 16, 2025), <https://perma.cc/U7W8-K6KM>.

<sup>31</sup> Dhruv T. Patel & Grace E. Yoon, *HHS Freezes \$60 Million in Federal Grants to Harvard in Third Round of Trump Cuts*, Harvard Crimson (May 20, 2025), <https://perma.cc/3592-75P6>.

<sup>32</sup> @realDonaldTrump, Truth Social (May 26, 2025, 8:27 AM ET), <https://tinyurl.com/4jfk7k2k>.

94. And on May 27, 2025, GSA targeted approximately \$100 million in contracts, instructing agencies to “consider [their] contracts with Harvard University and determine whether Harvard and its services efficiently promote the priorities of the agency.” Lehotsky Decl., Ex. 7.<sup>33</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

95. On May 28, 2025, during an interview in the Oval Office, President Trump remarked that Harvard is “hurting [itself]” by “fighting,” and noted that “Columbia has been, really, and they were very, very bad . . . . But they’re working with us on finding a solution.” He further stated that Harvard “wants to fight. They want to show how smart they are, and they’re getting their ass kicked”; “every time [Harvard] fight[s], they lose another \$250 million”; and “[a]ll they’re doing is getting in deeper and deeper and deeper.”<sup>34</sup>

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

#### **G. The Federal Government’s Failure to Comply with Title VI Procedures**

96. No Government agency ever acknowledged or engaged with the numerous steps Harvard has taken and committed to take to address antisemitism prior to freezing and terminating Harvard’s federal financial assistance, nor has it given Harvard an opportunity to explain additional steps taken since the initial freezing of funding. *See generally* Administrative Record.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

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<sup>33</sup> *See also Read the Trump Administration Letter About Harvard Contracts*, N.Y. Times (May 27, 2025), <https://perma.cc/V4DC-VS4Y>.

<sup>34</sup> President Donald Trump Taking Questions in the Oval Office (Newsmax, aired May 28, 2025, 12:42 PM ET), <https://perma.cc/ZUC6-3SP6>.

97. No Government agency has identified or provided Harvard notice of any specific instances of conduct or inaction by Harvard that would constitute a Title VI violation. *See generally* Administrative Record.

**Response: Defendants dispute that Harvard was not notified or provided “any specific instances of conduct or inaction by Harvard that would constitute a Title VI violation” and maintains that the April 3, 2025, and April 11, 2025, letters from the Government to Harvard identify both deficiencies and recommended responsive actions to address antisemitism.**

98. No Government agency has afforded Harvard an opportunity for a hearing prior to freezing and terminating Harvard’s federal financial assistance. *See generally* Administrative Record.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

99. No Government agency has made any express findings on the record about any Title VI allegations against Harvard. *See generally* Administrative Record.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

100. No Government agency has submitted a written report to Congress, let alone a full report from each relevant agency head to any relevant committee of the House or Senate. *See generally* Administrative Record.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

101. No Government agency allowed for thirty days to elapse before the Freeze Orders and Termination Letters became effective. Instead, the Freeze Orders and Termination Letters took effect immediately. *See generally* Administrative Record.

**Response: Defendants admit or have no basis to dispute.**

**H. The Irreparable Harm to Harvard**

102. The Government’s purported termination of Harvard’s federal financial assistance is having and will continue to have significant consequences on Harvard’s research programs. Shaw Decl. ¶ 16.

**Response: Defendants neither admit or deny.**

103. The Government’s purported termination of Harvard’s federal financial assistance is contributing and will contribute to the extensive disruption of Harvard’s research operations in a manner that devastates the integrity and continuity of ongoing research studies and jeopardizes their future viability. Shaw Decl. ¶¶ 16-24, 27.

**Response: Defendants neither admit or deny.**

104. Without funding, physical materials would degrade; graduate students would lose their funding and need to find different positions; and professors would move to other schools. Shaw Decl. ¶¶ 19-21.

**Response: Defendants neither admit or deny.**

105. The Government’s unconstitutional and unlawful funding cuts will cause staffing reductions, “damage the national research pipeline,” and “slow[] down or halt[] research” to the point of allowing “competitor nations to surpass the United States.” Shaw Decl. ¶¶ 21-22, 25.

**Response: Defendants deny the characterization that any funding cuts are “unconstitutional” or “unlawful”.**

106. Moreover, “[t]he disruption in ongoing research would harm public health” by upending “federally funded projects directly addressing critical public health challenges, including cancer treatments and prevention, infectious diseases, and Parkinson’s.” Shaw Decl. ¶ 27.

**Response: Defendants neither admit or deny.**

107. “In light of the terminations, those projects are in jeopardy, and potentially life-changing and life-saving scientific and medical discoveries will be delayed or blocked altogether.” Shaw Decl. ¶ 27.

**Response: Defendants neither admit or deny.**

108. Harvard cannot absorb the cost of the suspended or cancelled federal funds. Shaw Decl. ¶¶ 29-31.

**Response: Defendants neither admit or deny.**

Additionally, Defendants submit the following statement of facts of which there is no genuine issue to be tried:

**A. The Government’s Initiation of a Review of Harvard’s Federal Funding**

1. The Government’s comprehensive review of federal contacts and grants to Harvard was officially announced and began on March 31, 2025. GSAHarv\_00000001.

2. The Government’s review of federal grants and contracts was conducted pursuant to Executive Order 14188, signed on January 29, 2025, directing federal agencies to “us[e] all available and appropriate legal tools, to prosecute, remove, or otherwise hold to account the perpetrators of unlawful anti-Semitic harassment and violence.” *Id.*; see also Exec. Order. No. 14,188 (Jan. 29, 2025).

Dated: June 16, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

CHAD MIZELLE  
Acting Associate Attorney General

ABHISHEK KAMBLI  
Deputy Associate Attorney General

BRETT A. SHUMATE  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

JOSEPH E. BORSON  
Assistant Director, Federal Programs Branch

*/s/ Eitan R. Sirkovich*  
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EITAN R. SIRKOVICH  
RYAN M. UNDERWOOD  
Trial Attorneys  
United States Department of Justice  
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch  
1100 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: (202) 353-5525  
E-mail: eitan.r.sirkovich@usdoj.gov

*Counsel for Defendants*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Counsel for Plaintiff certify that they have submitted the foregoing document with the clerk of court for the District of Massachusetts, using the electronic case filing system of the Court. Counsel for Plaintiff hereby certify that they have served all parties electronically or by another manner authorized by Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b)(2).

/s/ Eitan R. Sirkovich  
Eitan R. Sirkovich